

What Is Claimed Is:

- 1 1. A method to facilitate software installation using embedded user
2 credentials, comprising:
3 receiving a software installation package at a computer;
4 extracting an installation program from the software installation package;
5 determining if a current user has sufficient privileges to run the installation
6 program;
7 if the current user does not have sufficient privileges,
8 recovering a set of user credentials that is associated with
9 sufficient privileges to run the installation program from the
10 software installation package, and
11 authenticating to the computer using the set of user
12 credentials; and
13 running the installation program on the computer.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the software installation package
2 includes an agent, wherein the agent enforces security policies on the computer.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the software installation package
2 includes a plurality of sets of user credentials.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 recovering a second set of user credentials from the plurality of sets of user
3 credentials if the set of user credentials failed during authentication; and
4 authenticating to the computer using the second set of user credentials.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of user credentials is
2 encrypted.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the software installation package
2 is received over a network.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the software installation package
2 is received on a storage medium.

1 8. A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that
2 when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method to
3 facilitate software installation using embedded user credentials, the method
4 comprising:
5 receiving a software installation package at the computer;
6 extracting an installation program from the software installation package;
7 determining if a current user has sufficient privileges to run the installation
8 program;
9 if the current user does not have sufficient privileges,
10 recovering a set of user credentials that is associated with
11 sufficient privileges to run the installation program from the
12 software installation package, and
13 authenticating to the computer using the set of user
14 credentials; and
15 running the installation program on the computer.

1 9. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein the
2 software installation package includes an agent, wherein the agent enforces
3 security policies on the computer.

1 10. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein the
2 software installation package includes a plurality of sets of user credentials.

1 11. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, the method
2 further comprising:
3 recovering a second set of user credentials from the plurality of sets of user
4 credentials if the set of user credentials failed during authentication; and
5 authenticating to the computer using the second set of user credentials.

1 12. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein the set
2 of user credentials is encrypted.

1 13. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein the
2 software installation package is received over a network.

1 14. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein the
2 software installation package is received on a storage medium.

1 15. An apparatus to facilitate software installation using embedded
2 user credentials, comprising:
3 a receiving mechanism that is configured to receive a software installation
4 package at a computer;

5 an extracting mechanism that is configured to extract an installation
6 program from the software installation package;
7 a determining mechanism that is configured to determine if a current user
8 has sufficient privileges to run the installation program;
9 a recovering mechanism that is configured to recover a set of user
10 credentials that is associated with sufficient privileges to run the installation
11 program from the software installation package;
12 an authenticating mechanism that is configured to authenticate to the
13 computer using the set of user credentials; and
14 a software executing mechanism that is configured to run the installation
15 program on the computer.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the software installation
2 package includes an agent, wherein the agent enforces security policies on the
3 computer.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the software installation
2 package includes a plurality of sets of user credentials.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17,
2 wherein the recovering mechanism is further configured to recover a
3 second set of user credentials from the plurality of sets of user credentials if the
4 set of user credentials failed during authentication; and
5 wherein the authenticating mechanism is further configured to authenticate
6 to the computer using the second set of user credentials.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the set of user credentials is
2 encrypted.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the software installation
2 package is received over a network.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the software installation
2 package is received on a storage medium.